

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 1, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 38

Introduced by Assembly Member Bonnie Lowenthal

March 14, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 38—Relative to the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 38, as amended, Bonnie Lowenthal. The Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management.

This measure continues in existence the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management, comprised of 7 Members of the Senate and 7 Members of the Assembly, as specified, ~~and authorizes the joint committee to act until November 30, 2011, and to address California’s emergency management issues, until abolished by the Legislature.~~

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, California is the site of some of the most
2 extraordinary natural disasters in North America, including fires,
3 earthquakes, floods, landslides, mudslides, insect infestations, and
4 drought; and

5 WHEREAS, California is the nation’s most populous state and
6 home to many of the nation’s most critical military installations,
7 industrial facilities, ports, academic institutions, and tourist
8 destinations, and as such California is especially vulnerable to
9 potential acts of terrorism; and

10 WHEREAS, The failed governmental response to Hurricane
11 Katrina in 2005 indicates an immediate need to continue to assess

1 and improve upon California's emergency preparedness and
2 response plans, especially in the following areas: the specific roles
3 of local, state, and federal agencies; evacuation planning;
4 interoperable communication systems; emergency warning
5 protocols; and private sector preparedness; and

6 WHEREAS, The ~~ongoing~~ *recurrent* threat of avian and
7 pandemic flu could also present unprecedented challenges to the
8 state's public health system and thus place at risk the state's
9 residents and our economy; and

10 WHEREAS, On November 2, 2003, ~~Governor~~ *then-Governor*
11 Gray Davis and ~~Governor-elect~~ *then-Governor-elect* Arnold
12 Schwarzenegger established a Blue Ribbon Fire Commission
13 representing federal, state, and local agencies, the firefighting
14 community, and certain communities; and

15 WHEREAS, The Blue Ribbon Fire Commission was established
16 to conduct a review of the efforts to fight the October 2003 fires
17 and present recommendations to make California less vulnerable
18 to disasters of such enormity in the future; and

19 WHEREAS, The Blue Ribbon Fire Commission, in its report
20 to the Governor, made numerous recommendations and prioritized
21 their importance, including the establishment of a permanent Joint
22 Legislative Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland
23 Security; and

24 WHEREAS, The Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency
25 Services and Homeland Security has been in continuous existence
26 since it was first established by Resolution Chapter 144 of the
27 Statutes of 2004, and subsequently reauthorized by Resolution
28 Chapter 106 of the Statutes of 2005, Resolution Chapter 152 of
29 the Statutes of 2006, and reauthorized and renamed as the Joint
30 Legislative Committee on Emergency Management by Resolution
31 Chapter 36 of the Statutes of 2009; and

32 WHEREAS, The Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency
33 Management has provided essential oversight of the California
34 Emergency Management Agency and conducted numerous hearings
35 on the subject of emergency preparedness and homeland security
36 issues; and

37 WHEREAS, The members of the Joint Legislative Committee
38 on Emergency Management and the Legislature recognize that the
39 work of the joint committee needs to continue; now, therefore, be
40 it

1 *Resolved, by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
2 *thereof concurring, That the Joint Legislative Committee on*
3 *Emergency Management is continued in existence from the*
4 *2009–10 Regular Session; and be it further*

5 *Resolved, That the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency*
6 *Management is authorized to act until November 30, 2012, when*
7 *its existence shall terminate shall be in continuous existence until*
8 *abolished by the Legislature; and be it further*

9 *Resolved, That the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency*
10 *Management shall consist of 14 members, and shall include seven*
11 *Members of the Senate appointed by the Senate Committee on*
12 *Rules, four from the political party having the largest number of*
13 *members in the Senate and three from the political party having*
14 *the second largest number of members, and seven Members of the*
15 *Assembly appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, four from*
16 *the political party having the largest number of members in the*
17 *Assembly and three from the political party having the second*
18 *largest number of members; and be it further*

19 *Resolved, That the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency*
20 *Management shall be under the direction of a chairperson and vice*
21 *chairperson that shall alternate between the Senate and the*
22 *Assembly from session to session; and be it further*

23 *Resolved, That the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency*
24 *Management may provide a public forum for discussion of*
25 *California’s emergency management issues related to natural or*
26 *human-caused threats to California; and be it further*

27 *Resolved, That, in order to assist the Joint Legislative Committee*
28 *on Emergency Management in carrying out its duties, the joint*
29 *committee may form technical advisory committees, including*
30 *representatives from the public safety and emergency services*
31 *disciplines, to help evaluate federal, state, and local strategies,*
32 *provide technical assistance on an ongoing basis, and take active*
33 *roles in supporting the passage of any necessary legislation; and*
34 *be it further*

35 *Resolved, That the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency*
36 *Management may work in cooperation with the Governor and the*
37 *standing committees and subcommittees of the Legislature to*
38 *address the level of support necessary for public safety and related*
39 *safety agencies to implement essential emergency management*
40 *services and policies; and be it further*

1 *Resolved*, That the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency
2 Management ~~may periodically report its progress and make~~
3 ~~recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature~~ *shall, during*
4 *each biennial session of the Legislature, report to the Governor*
5 *and the Legislature on the joint committee's progress and includes*
6 *any recommendations relating to the status of the services and*
7 *policies that are necessary to have in place to adequately address*
8 *public safety and essential emergency management services and*
9 *policies; and be it further*

10 *Resolved*, That the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency
11 Management and its members shall have and exercise all of the
12 rights, duties, and powers conferred upon investigating committees
13 and their members by the Joint Rules of the Assembly and Senate
14 as they are adopted and amended from time to time, which
15 provisions are incorporated herein and made applicable to this
16 joint committee and its members; and be it further

17 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
18 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.